

## Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 SY-07 AID-20 M-03 A-01 OPR-02

OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /157 W  
----- 036045

R 121039 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9070

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652/ N/ A

TAGS: PINT, BG

SUBJECT: ELECTION AFTERMATH

REF: DACCA 1051

SUMMARY: ELECTION COMMISSION FIGURES GIVE AL  
73 PERCENT POPULAR VOTE IN JUST COMPLETED BANGLADESH  
ELECTION. ALL NON- AL POLITICAL GROUPS CLAIM  
ELECTION UNFAIR. SOME VIOLENCE, POSSIBLY OF  
POLITICAL CHARACTER, SINCE ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL TALLY OF MARCH 7 GENERAL ELECTION

GIVES AL 13,503,483 VOTES; NAP/ M 1,586,441;

JSD 1,195,572; NAP/ B 1,001,312;

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INDEPENDENT/ OTHERS 1,176,493. TOTAL OF 18, 463,301 PERSONS OR 55 PERCENT OF 33,787,638 ELIGIBLE VOTERS, CAST BALLOTS. RECOUNT HAS SHOWN NAP/ M CANDIDATE REPORTED ELECTED IN REFTEL WAS ACTUALLY DEFEATED BY AL NOMINEE. TOTAL OF NON- AL MPS REMAINS AT SEVEN, HOWEVER, SINCE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS VOTERS RETURNED TWO INDEPENDENTS, NOT ONE AS REPORTED REFTEL.

2. ALL OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE DENOUNCED ELECTION AS UNFAIR. POLITICIANS MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS INCLUDE JALIL AND RAB OF JSD, MUZAFFAR AND GENERAL SECRETARY PANKAJ BHATTARCHARJEE OF NAP/ M, NAP/ B SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND UNSUCCESSFUL NOMINEE FOR PARLIAMENT ALIM AL- RAZEE, LEADERS OF BANGLA JATIYA LEAGUE AND SRAMIK KRISHAK SAMAJBADI DAL, AND SOLE OPPOSITION LEADER ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT, ATAUR RAHMAN KHAN. DENUNCIATIONS ACCUSE AL OF USING RAKKHI BAHINI INTIMIDATE VOTERS AND OFFICIALS AT POLLING STATIONS, OF DENYING NON- AL POLL WATCHERS ACCESS TO POLLS AND VOTE COUNTING, AND OF STUFFING BALLOT BOXES. ALSO, ELECTION COMMISSION ACCUSED OF FAVORITIS M. WEEKLY HOLIDAY, IN LOW- KEY ARTICLE NOTING THAT AL WOULD HAVE WON OVERWHELMING VICTORY IN ANY CASE, LIKEWISE INSISTS THAT STRONG ARM TACTICS OF RULING PARTY COST NON- AL GROUPS AS MANY AS TEN SEATS.

3. MEANWHILE, SEVERAL VIOLENT INCIDENTS WITH POSSIBLE POLITICAL CONNOTATION HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE ELECTIONS. IN PERIOD MARCH 6-8, THE AL

WORKERS REPORTED IN JOYPUHAT, BORGRA DISTRICT. THREE AL WORKERS KILLED IN MARCH 9 ATTACK UNSUCCESSFULLY DIRECTED AT NEWLY ELECTED AL MP NETRAKONA, MYMENSINGH DISTRICT; TWO JSD WORKERS SHOT, ONE FATALLY, SAME DAY IN JHENIDAH, JESSORE DISTRICT. ON MARCH 10, AL WORKER FATALLY SHOT IN MUNSHIGANJ SUB- DIVISION, DACCA DISTRICT, WITH 54 PERSONS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED AND " CHINESE MADE WIRELESS RECEIVING SET" ALLEGEDLY RECOVERED. ALSO ON MARCH 10, UNSUCCESSFUL NAP/ M CANDIDATE FOR PARLIAMENT, CPB WORKER AND TWO COMPANIONS BEATEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DEATH BY MOB IN GOPALGANJ SUB- DIVISION,

FARIDPUR DISTRICT.

4. COMMENT: HIGHLY LIKELY THAT AL RESORTED TO  
ILLEGAL TACTICS INCLUDING MISUSE OF RAKKHI BAHINI  
IN SEVERAL CONSTITUENCIES. EQUALLY LIKELY THAT  
OPPOSITION VASTLY EXAGGERATED EXTENT OF  
CHICANERY. NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER POST- ELECTION  
VIOLENCE TEMPORARY PHENOMENON OR BEGINNING OF  
AL/ OPPOSITION RESPONSE TO POST- ELECTORAL SITUATION.  
NEWBERRY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971118  
**Subject:** ELECTION AFTERMATH  
**TAGS:** PINT, BG  
**To:** COLOMBO  
ISLAMABAD  
KABUL  
KATHMANDU  
LONDON  
NEA  
NEW DELHI

RANGOON  
SECSTATE WASHDC

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